

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claims 9-15, which were previously withdrawn, have been canceled without prejudice to filing another application, such as a continuation or divisional application. Claims 16-21 have been added. Claims 1-8 and 16-21 are currently pending in the case.

I. Abstract

The examiner indicates that the abstract should avoid phrases such as "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," and "The disclosure describes". However, the abstract of the present invention, as initially filed, does not contain any such phrases. The applicant, respectfully, requests clarification as to whether any change in the abstract is required.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 1, as originally filed, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. The applicant has amended claim 1 and has eliminated the "pegboard-like" language.

Claim 8, as originally filed, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. The applicant has amended claim 8.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 are respectfully submitted to be obviated.

III. Rejections under Claim 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-7, as originally filed, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Smith. Claims 1, 2, and 7, as originally filed were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Shea. Claim

8, as originally filed was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Shea, alone.

Claim 1 has been amended and now specifies:

1. An apparatus comprising:

a first U-shaped member comprised of an outer portion, an edge portion, and an inner portion wherein the outer portion and the inner portion are substantially parallel, the edge portion is substantially perpendicular to the outer portion and the inner portion and the edge portion connects the outer portion to the inner portion, and the outer portion has a first slot, wherein an object can be inserted through the first slot;

a second U-shaped member comprised of an outer portion, an edge portion, and an inner portion wherein the outer portion and the inner portion are substantially parallel, the edge portion is substantially perpendicular to the outer portion and the inner portion and the edge portion connects the outer portion to the inner portion; and

a perforated board integrated to the inner portion of the first U-shaped member and the inner portion of the second U-shaped member;

and wherein the perforated board is substantially perpendicular to the inner portion of the first U-shaped member and the inner portion of the second U-shaped member.

In the present invention, in one or more embodiments, an apparatus 10 is provided including a first U-shaped member 14 and a second U-shaped member 16. (Present application, Fig. 1 and 2, pg. 3, second to last paragraph – pg. 4, second paragraph). The first U-shaped member 14 includes inner portion 14c, an edge portion 14b, and an outer portion 14a. (Present application, Fig. 2) The inner portion 14c and the outer portion 14a are substantially parallel. (Present application, Fig. 2) The edge portion 14b is substantially perpendicular to the outer portion 14a and the inner portion 14c and the edge portion 14b connects the outer portion 14a to the inner portion 14c. (Present application, Fig. 2). The outer portion 14a has a first slot 15a, wherein an object can be inserted through the slot 15a. (Present application, pg. 5, first paragraph, Fig. 1B).

Similarly the second U-shaped member 16 includes inner portion 16c, an edge portion 16b, and an outer portion 16a. (Present application, Fig. 2) The inner portion 16c and the outer portion 16a are substantially parallel. (Present application, Fig. 2) The edge portion 16b is substantially perpendicular to the outer portion 16a and the inner portion 16c and the edge portion

16b connects the outer portion 16a to the inner portion 16c. (Present application, Fig. 2). The outer portion 16a has a first slot 17a. (Present application, Fig. 1B).

The apparatus 10 further includes a perforated board 20 integrated to the inner portion 14c of the first U-shaped member 14 and the inner portion 16c of the second U-shaped member 16. (Present application, Fig. 1 and 2, pg. 3, second to last paragraph – pg. 4, second paragraph). The perforated board 20 is substantially perpendicular to the inner portions 14c and 16c. (Id.)

Smith provides U-shaped end covers 72 and 74. (Smith, Fig. 4). However, those U-shaped end covers 72 and 74 do not satisfy the limitations of claim 1 of the present application as amended. For example, the inner and outer portions of U-shaped end covers 72 and 74 are not substantially perpendicular to, but rather parallel to panels 54 and 56. (Smith, Fig. 4).

Shea provides a first U-shaped member including portions 60 and a second U-shaped member including portions 62. However, the portions 60 and 62 are not substantially perpendicular to, but rather parallel to back panel 22. (Shea, Fig. 3). Shea also provides projections 65 and 66. (Fig. 3). However, these projections are not U-shaped. (Fig. 3). Shea does not disclose a U-shaped member with inner, outer, and edge portions, wherein the outer portion has a slot through which an object can be inserted.

Smith does not satisfy the limitations of claim 1 as amended. Shea does not satisfy the limitations of claim 1 as amended. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 2-8 and 16-20 are dependent on claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons.

IV. New Claims 16-21

Claims 16-21 have been added. Claims 16-20 are dependent on claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 16-20 have additional

limitations which, at least in combination, with other limitations, are not shown by the prior art. Claim 21 is a new independent claim. The combination of limitations of claim 21 is not shown by the prior art. Claim 21 is submitted to be allowable.

V. Conclusion

Claims 1-8 and 16-21 are respectfully submitted to be in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. A credit card payment form for \$25.00 for one extra claim over twenty is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter J. Tencza Jr.
Reg. No. 35,708
Suite 3
10 Station Place
Metuchen, N.J. 08840
(732) 549-3007
Fax (732) 549-8486